

Literary Spies

Memoir writing is very much the rage among spies who come in from the cold these days. There was *Man from Moscow*, published in London last month by Greville M. Wynne, British agent in the U.S.S.R. And *Spy* published in Moscow in 1965 by Gordon Lonsdale, Soviet agent in the United Kingdom. And the alleged memoirs of Colonel Penkovsky, a Soviet defector, which appeared in this country about the same time.

Now there is "I Was an Agent for the CIA," the work of one John Smith, whose life story began appearing in the Soviet weekly *Literaturnaya Gazeta* last week. Smith claims he defected to the Soviet Union because the United States is preparing "a new world catastrophe."

John Smith, the Moscow memoirist, does have something in common with a John Discoe Smith, a communications clerk employed by the State Department from 1950 to 1959. The Soviet Smith says he was born in Quincy, Mass., birthplace of the State Department Smith. He says he attended "Washington" University and is married to Mary London Smith. George Washington University officials confirmed that a John D. Smith of Quincy, Mass., enrolled in 1948 and dropped out in 1950, while the State Department reported its John D. Smith married a Foreign Service secretary named Mary Francis London in 1955.

There is, however, just one hitch to this latest expose of the over-exposed CIA. Apparently neither CIA nor the FBI ever employed any John D. Smith, and reportedly both the spooks and sleuths are glad of it.

Thus while there may be an American defector in the Soviet Union named John Smith, his connection with CIA remains unproved; his memoirs could well be another

Operation Wholecloth manufactured by the KGB for propaganda purposes.

In this case, the purpose may be to offset publicity about the recent defection of Lt. Col. Yevgeny Runge, a Soviet intelligence officer in Germany. Of course, the purpose could be to offset the impact of the defector's memoirs which are sure to come out in this country.

It's all part of a continuing duel between the Soviet Union and the West. And it all points to the changing trends in the espionage business. The spy these days may be well advised to stash his cloak and dagger, throw away that trenchcoat, and find a reliable typewriter.